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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 11, 1989 -- Carloadings* originated on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 6 totaled 345,763, virtually the same as the comparable week of 1988, but down 2.0 percent from the preceding week of 1989, the Association of American Railroads (AAR) reported today. The railroads reporting account for approximately 94 percent of all rail carloads.

Carloadings originated were up 3.1 percent in the East, but down 3.6 percent in the West, compared with a year ago.

From the comparable 1988 week, coal was up 8,114 cars (6.9 percent), and loadings of chemicals rose 1,398 cars (5.1 percent). Grain loadings were down 5,512 cars (17.3 percent).

Cumulative carloadings for the first 18 weeks of 1989 totaled 6,042,751, up 0.6 percent from the comparable period a year ago.

Intermodal traffic on Class I railroads -- which is not included in the carloadings -- totaled 113,290 trailers and/or containers for the week ended May 6, up 0.6 percent from the comparable week of 1988.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 18 weeks of 1989 was 2,021,907 trailers and/or containers, up 1.8 percent from 1988.

The AAR also estimated that ton-miles carried on major railroads in the week ended May 6 totaled 19.7 billion, 1.0 percent above the comparable week of 1988. Cumulative volume for the first 18 weeks of 1989 was an estimated 348.7 billion ton-miles, up 1.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

**Because of changes in reporting, 1989 figures are not comparable to previous years, except for 1988, which has been restated for purposes of comparison with 1989.*

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 6, 1989

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING MAY 6, 1989	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1988	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	26,372	31,884	-17.3 %	27,344	-3.6 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,514	2,161	-29.9	2,188	-30.8
Metallic Ores	21,031	20,421	3.0	22,909	-8.2
Coal	126,563	118,449	6.9	124,863	1.4
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	16,660	17,239	-3.4	16,819	-.9
Nonmetallic Minerals	11,030	10,585	4.2	9,906	11.3
Grain Mill Products	10,299	10,390	-.9	10,343	-.4
Food & Kindred Products	8,699	9,126	-4.7	8,995	-3.3
Primary Forest Products	9,065	9,737	-6.9	9,936	-8.8
Lumber & Wood Products	6,766	7,210	-6.2	7,279	-7.0
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,195	11,006	-7.4	10,688	-4.6
Chemicals	28,681	27,283	5.1	30,176	-5.0
Petroleum Products	4,981	4,981	.0	5,198	-4.2
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	10,515	10,812	-2.7	10,843	-3.0
Coke	5,505	5,765	-4.5	5,192	6.0
Metals & Products	10,104	10,815	-6.6	10,634	-5.0
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	21,467	21,418	.2	22,199	-3.3
Waste & Scrap Materials	8,989	8,995	-.1	9,698	-7.3
Forwarder & Shipper Assn.	17	37	-54.1	11	54.5
All Other Carloads	7,310	7,407	-1.3	7,624	-4.1
Total	**345,763**	**345,721**	**.0 %**	**352,845**	**-2.0 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING MAY 6, 1989 1989	1988	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 18 WEEKS ENDING MAY 6, 1989 1989	1988	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	**345,763**	**345,721**	**.0 %**	**6,042,751**	**6,007,638**	**.6 %**
Intermodal Traffic						
Trailers	66,072	67,695	-2.4	1,177,116	1,208,048	-2.6
Containers	47,218	44,875	5.2	844,791	778,882	8.5
Total	**113,290**	**112,570**	**.6**	**2,021,907**	**1,986,930**	**1.8**
Estimated Ton-Miles Class I Railroads (Billions)	**19.7**	**19.5**	**1.0 %**	**348.7**	**344.8**	**1.2 %**

NOTE: Carloads estimated for: Week 18, 1989 - PS.

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